



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
Food and Veterinary Office

**FOOD AND VETERINARY  
OFFICE**

**FVO**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2001**

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# INTRODUCTION

This is the fifth Annual Report of the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO), Directorate F of the Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General. The report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2001, and outlines the main activities undertaken by the FVO during that period.

Several innovations have been introduced in this Annual Report in an attempt to make it more user-friendly and informative for the general reader:

- More use is made of tables, charts and maps to summarise and simplify the information in the report.
- Hyperlinks are included to guide the reader to more detailed information contained in FVO inspection reports or other related publications on the [website of the Directorate General for Health & Consumer Protection](#).
- An effort has been made to avoid overuse of technical terms and a glossary of special terms is included in Annex 3 to the report.

The FVO's mission is:

- to promote effective control systems in the food safety and quality, veterinary and plant health sectors,
- to check on compliance with the requirements of EU food safety and quality, veterinary and plant health legislation within the European Union and in third countries exporting to the EU,
- to contribute to the development of EU policy in the food safety and quality, veterinary and plant health sectors,
- to inform stakeholders of the outcome of evaluations.

The FVO's main activity is to carry out inspections in Member States and third countries and to verify the implementation and enforcement of EU legislation by competent authorities. The findings of these inspections are presented in inspection reports, together with conclusions and recommendations. The inspection reports are made public on the [Directorate General's website](#).

Recommendations are made to the country's competent authority to address shortcomings revealed during the inspections. The competent authority is requested to present an action plan to the FVO on how it intends to address the shortcomings. Together with other Commission services, the FVO evaluates this action plan and monitors its implementation.

The FVO also makes recommendations to other Commission Services on legislation that needs to be clarified or amended and on areas where new legislation may be required. In

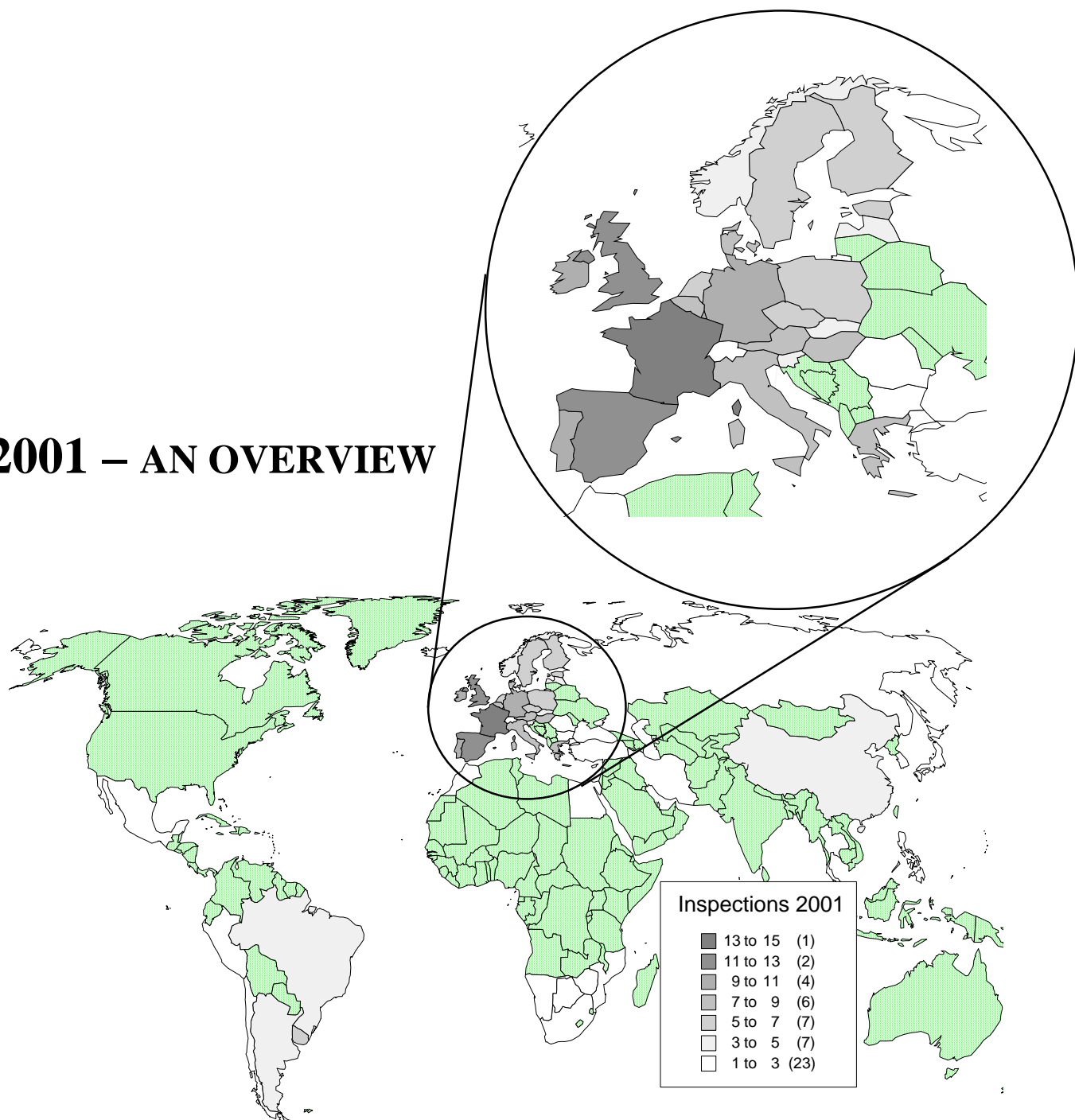
this way, the results of FVO inspections contribute to the development of Community policy.

The FVO conducted 209 inspections in 2001. A full list of these inspections, categorised by country and by subject, is given in Annex 1. Four main issues dominated the FVO's inspection programme in 2001:

- Inspections of hygiene control systems in the production of food of animal origin (red meat, poultry, milk, eggs & egg products, fish) in the Member States accounted for the largest part of the FVO work programme.
- Inspections on TSE continued as a major priority. For the first time these inspections were extended to include some candidate countries, as well as covering all Member States.
- In the animal health area, the outbreaks of Food & Mouth Disease (FMD) in four Member States in the first half of the year necessitated the FVO to concentrate on this issue for the rest of the year.
- As the enlargement of the EU draws closer, the FVO has also intensified its activities in candidate countries.

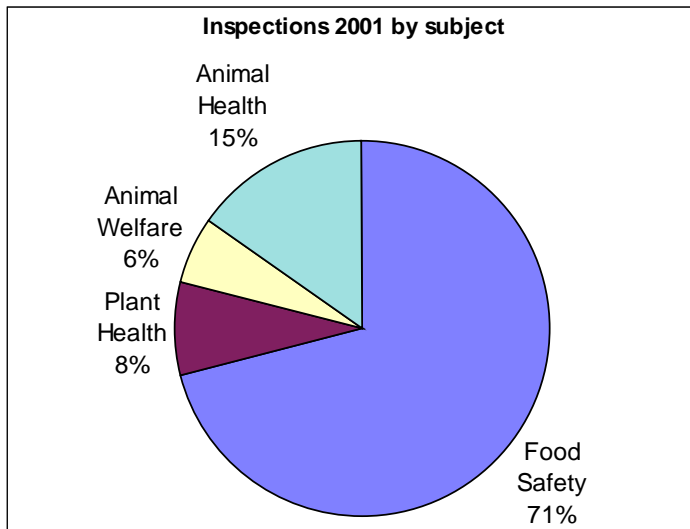
At the end of 2001 the FVO had a total staff of around 145 and was in the process of filling 15 vacant posts. The management structure of the FVO is based around five management units. The responsibilities of the units are set out in chart form in [Annex 2](#) to this report.

## 2001 – AN OVERVIEW



## Overview

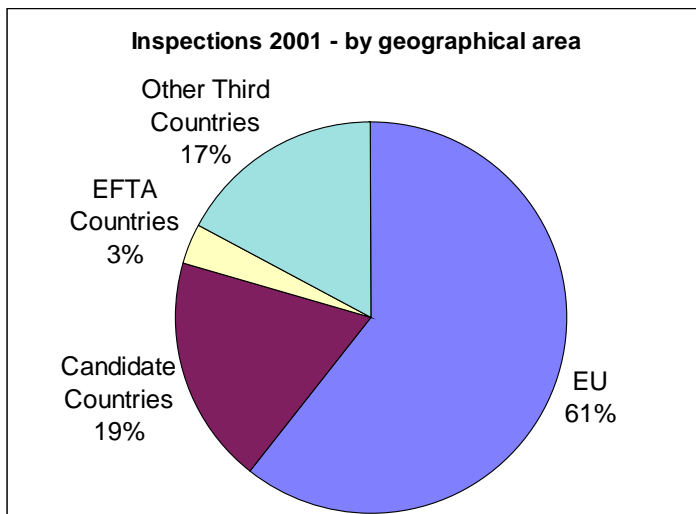
Food safety is the most important area of work for the FVO and occupied about 70% of its resources in 2001. Animal health is often closely related to food safety, as some animal diseases are transmissible to humans and unhealthy animals should not enter the food chain. Therefore food safety inspections often also cover animal health topics.



Subject	Total inspections
Food Safety	148
Animal Health	32
Plant Health	17
Animal Welfare	12
Total	209

In 2001 the FVO carried out 61% of its inspections in Member States. Since most of the food consumed within the EU is produced within the Union itself, health controls on production within the EU are given the

highest priority. Considerable attention was also given to control systems in candidate countries. With the date of accession approaching, inspections in [candidate countries](#) will continue to take a significant proportion of the FVO's resources in the coming years.



Geographical Area	Total Inspections
EU	127
Candidate Countries	40
EFTA Countries	6
Other Third Countries	36
Total	209

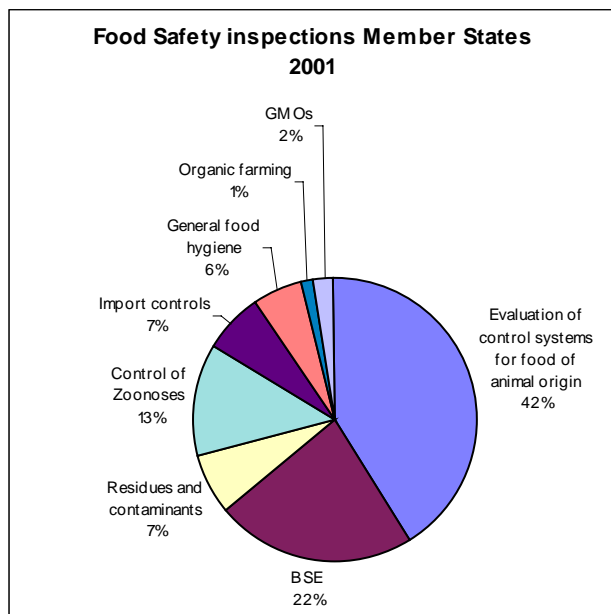
## Inspections in Member States



Inspections in Member States are identified following a three-step process:

1. The main legal provisions which require or authorise the Commission to conduct inspections are reviewed.
2. A choice is then made as to which products/sectors should be given priority, based on an evaluation of the main risks and the key policy issues involved.
3. For products/sectors considered a priority, a series of inspections is normally carried out in all or almost all Member States.

The outcome of this process is presented in the [Annual Programme of Inspections](#), adopted at the beginning of each year and updated after six months following a mid-year review. The initial and revised inspections programmes are published on the Directorate General's website.

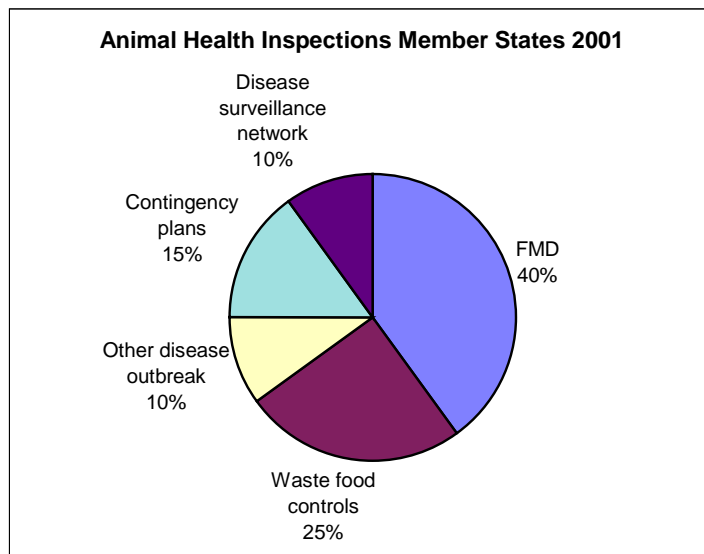


Area	Inspections in Member States
Food Safety	85
Animal Health	20
Plant Health	10
Animal Welfare	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>

In 2001, [TSE](#), in particular BSE in bovines, were still a major priority.

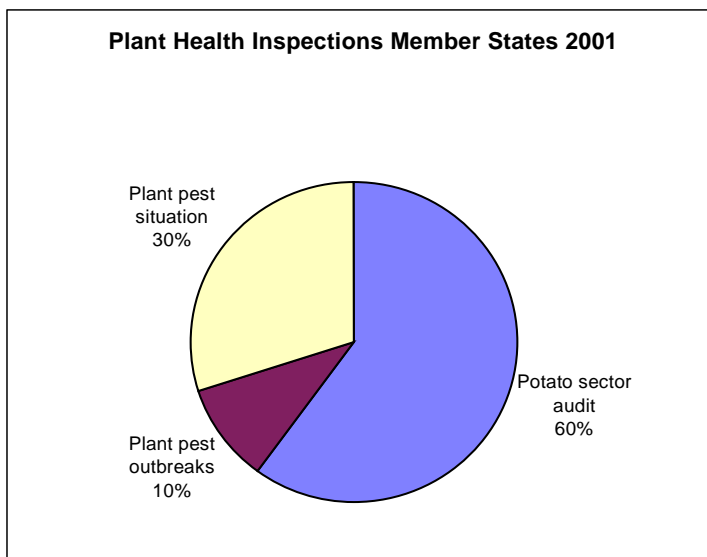
Almost half of the inspections on food safety dealt with the evaluation of control systems and production standards in establishments producing products of animal origin. The table below shows numbers of inspections for each type of product.

Evaluation of control systems and production standards	Inspections
eggs and egg products	4
fishery products and bivalve molluscs	11
meat and meat products	14
milk and milk products	6



Animal health inspections concentrated in 2001 on foot and mouth disease controls, following FMD outbreaks in several Member States. Evaluations of waste food controls were also given priority in this context.

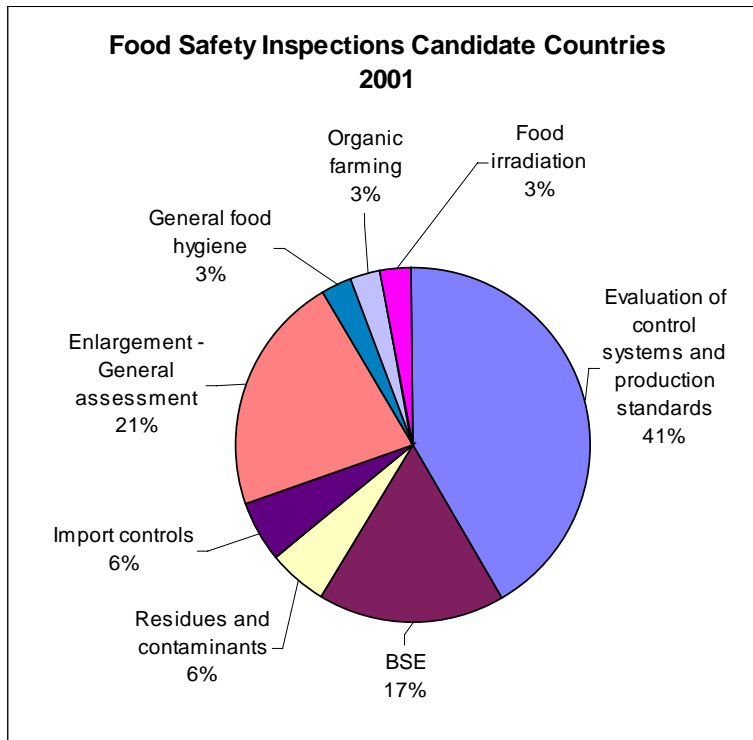
In the area of animal welfare, half of the inspections were devoted to on-farm welfare and half to welfare on transport.



In the area of plant health, work from previous years was continued with 6 potato audits and 3 pinewood nematode inspections.



## Inspections in Candidate Countries



There were three types of inspections in candidate countries in 2001:

1. Inspections of control systems related to food producing establishments currently approved for export to the European Union.

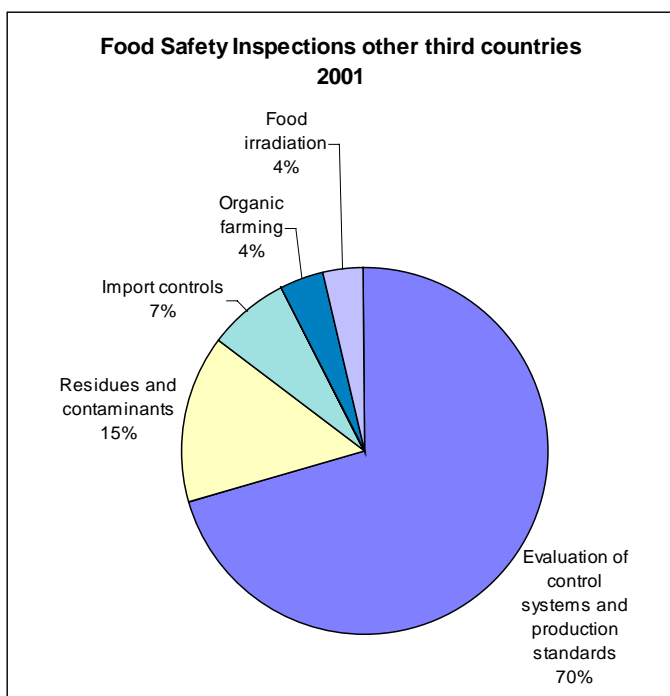
A breakdown by product of these inspections is given in the table below:

Evaluation of control systems and production standards	Inspections
eggs and egg products	1
fishery products and bivalve molluscs	1
meat and meat products	10
milk and milk products	4

2. A special series of general assessment inspections was launched in 2001 to carry out a first general assessment of the structure, organisation and functioning at all levels of the authorities responsible for food safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in each candidate country. During 2001, the FVO performed eight *general assessment* missions: to Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovenia, Latvia, Estonia, Cyprus and the Slovak Republic. Inspections to the remaining four candidate countries (Turkey excluded) were planned to take place in the first quarter of 2002.
3. Following completion of the general assessment inspections, a series of more specific in-depth *monitoring inspections* to each applicant country also commenced in 2001. During 2001, there were inspections to six countries to assess [BSE](#) controls and two to assess [import controls](#).

## Inspections in other third countries

Most inspections in other third countries were decided according to risk assessment principles, taking into account trade volumes and specific food safety, animal health or plant health hazards. Inspections were also carried out in response to requests from countries for approval to export to the EU or in response to disease outbreaks.

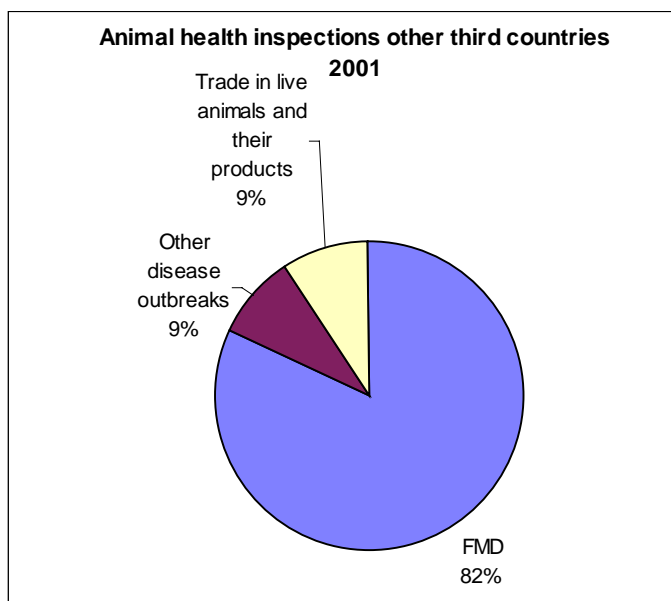


Subject	Inspections in other third countries
Food Safety	27
Animal Health	11
Plant Health	4
Total	42

About 70% of the inspections in other third countries to evaluate food safety and animal health

control systems and production standards for products of animal origin are broken down by product in the table below:

Evaluation of control systems and production standards	Inspections
fishery products and bivalve molluscs	8
meat and meat products	10
milk and milk products	1



Animal health inspections to third countries focussed largely on foot and mouth disease (FMD). No animal welfare inspections were carried out in third countries because the Commission has no legal basis for carrying out inspections on animal welfare outside the EU.

## **Follow up to Inspections**

All inspections are subject to a follow-up procedure by the FVO. Actions taken by the national authorities in response to the recommendations by the FVO are closely monitored. Where these are considered satisfactory the report is closed, although its findings form an integral part of the planning for future missions in the same sector or country. Where they are not considered satisfactory, the report is referred to the relevant Commission Services to consider the most appropriate course of action to be taken.

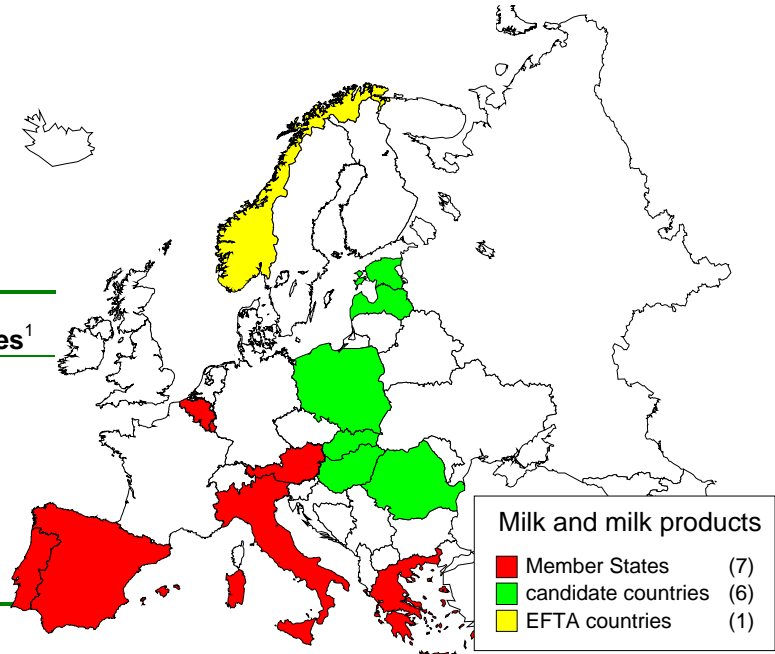
# FOOD SAFETY

## Food of animal origin

### *Milk and milk products*

Inspections carried out:

Member States	Candidate Countries	EFTA Countries <sup>1</sup>
<a href="#">Austria</a>	<a href="#">Estonia</a>	Norway
<a href="#">Belgium</a>	<a href="#">Hungary</a>	
<a href="#">Greece</a>	<a href="#">Latvia</a>	
<a href="#">Italy</a>	<a href="#">Poland</a>	
<a href="#">Luxembourg</a>	<a href="#">Romania</a>	
Portugal	<a href="#">Slovak Republic</a>	
<a href="#">Spain</a>		



### *Member States*

Following the series of missions to all Member States, which was completed in 2000, a general report was sent to Member States in July 2001. This provided a summary of the main issues identified as requiring attention, and the action taken by the Commission's services to address them. In light of the findings of these missions, the following additional actions were taken:

- follow-up visits were carried out in seven Member States to check on progress since the original visits,
- particular attention was paid to milk production and processing standards during missions to five Member States in respect of [the ovine/caprine brucellosis eradication programmes](#),
- concerns over the handling and safety of raw milk from holdings not accepted as free of brucellosis were pursued with the Member States concerned and the relevant Commission services.

### *Candidate Countries*

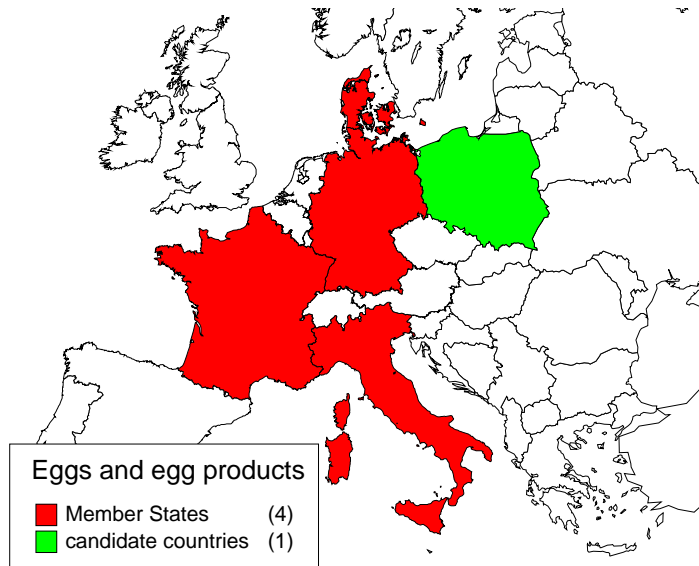
- Missions were undertaken in several candidate countries in order to evaluate controls over exports to the EU. Problems with raw milk quality, and the handling of certain milk products intended for uses other than human consumption, were identified.

<sup>1</sup> Joint inspection with [EFTA Surveillance Authority](#).

## *Eggs and egg products*

Inspections carried out:

Member States	Candidate Countries
Denmark	Poland
France	
Germany	
Italy	



### *Member States*

Egg and egg product consumption is the cause of most food poisoning outbreaks due to *Salmonella enteritidis*. A series of inspections to Member States was started in 2001 to assess how competent authorities are delivering control and enforcement of the relevant Community legislation in egg packing centres and egg product establishments.

### *Findings:*

Overall, the hygienic situation in the establishments is good and the products comply generally with the Community microbiological criteria. There is satisfactory control and enforcement of the table egg Community legislation. However, some deficiencies were noted, including:

- insufficient co-ordination between competent authorities when different authorities deal with different sub-sectors,
- insufficient harmonisation of control procedures as well as recording of deficiencies,
- difficulties in attaining corrective actions for deficiencies found during inspection/supervision, in particular in egg product establishments,
- lack of or insufficient chemical analysis indicating the quality of fresh eggs, either performed by companies or competent authorities,
- weaknesses in the supervision of eggs and egg products unfit for human consumption and therefore a risk that they might in some cases be incorporated in prepared food.

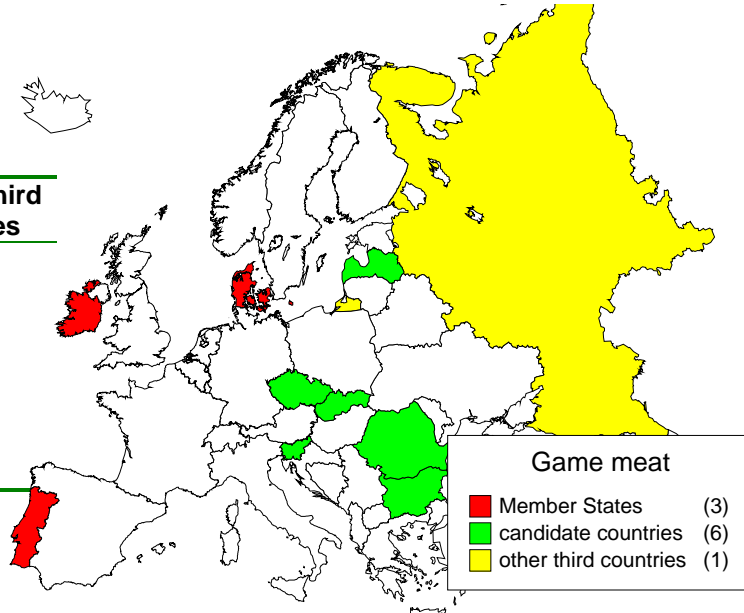
### *Candidate Countries*

In Poland, exports of non heat-treated egg products was found, although this is prohibited under Community legislation. Competent authorities gave a commitment to immediately cease issuing export certification for these products.

## *Wild and farmed game meat*

Inspections carried out:

Member States	Candidate Countries	Other third countries
<a href="#">Denmark</a>	<a href="#">Bulgaria</a>	<a href="#">Russia</a>
<a href="#">Ireland</a>	<a href="#">Czech Republic</a>	
<a href="#">Portugal</a>	<a href="#">Latvia</a>	
	<a href="#">Romania</a>	
	<a href="#">Slovak Republic</a>	
	<a href="#">Slovenia</a>	



### *Member States*

A further three missions were completed as part of the series to all Member States started in 2000.

Findings (in all Member States):

- The transposition of EU legislation was generally unsatisfactory.
- Official controls over the production of game meat were inadequate in certain areas.

### *Candidate Countries*

Missions were undertaken in several candidate countries in order to evaluate controls over exports to the EU. Problems were identified regarding the traceability and certification, handling and storage of wild game meat.

### *Other third countries*

- A mission to Russia re-evaluated the exports of game meat from the Murmansk region.

## Red meat

Inspections carried out:

Member States	Candidate Countries	Other third countries
<a href="#">Austria</a>	<a href="#">Bulgaria</a>	<a href="#">Argentina</a>
France	<a href="#">Romania</a>	<a href="#">Brazil</a>
<a href="#">Ireland</a>	<a href="#">Slovenia</a>	Mexico
<a href="#">Luxembourg</a> (2)		<a href="#">Uruguay</a>
<a href="#">Portugal</a>		<a href="#">Zimbabwe</a>
<a href="#">Sweden</a>		

### *Member States*

A series of inspections on pig meat production was completed. In addition, a follow-up mission was undertaken in France to evaluate the situation at a slaughterhouse in relation to which an [infringement action](#), due to an earlier failure to enforce EU legislation, was under consideration.

### *Findings:*

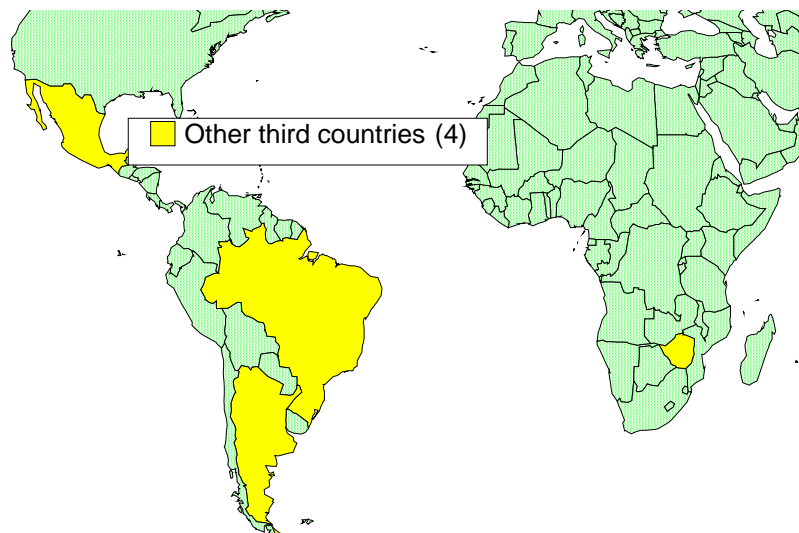
- Problems identified in Member States already visited<sup>2</sup> were confirmed.
- Similar deficiencies were noted in respect of missions on beef production in 1998 – 1999. It is a cause for concern that little improvement has been achieved.

### *Candidate and other third countries*

Missions to both candidate countries and other third countries evaluated the operation of official controls over red meat being produced for export to the EU.

### *Findings:*

- In all third countries, problems with controls over health certification of meat, and animal identification, were noted. In certain third countries, failures in the controls over the origin of animals and of traceability systems were also recorded.

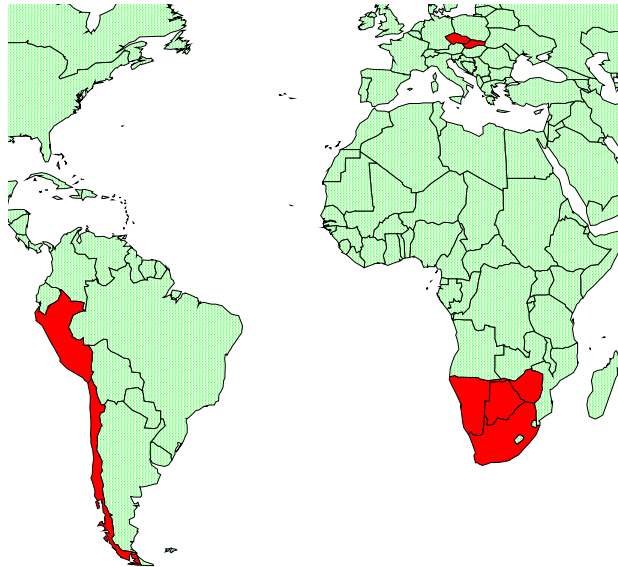


<sup>2</sup> see [FVO annual report of 2000](#)

## *Poultry meat*

Inspections carried out:

<b>Candidate Countries</b>	<b>Other third countries</b>
Czech Republic	<a href="#">Botswana</a>
Slovak Republic	Chile
	<a href="#">Namibia</a>
	Peru
	<a href="#">South Africa</a>
	<a href="#">Zimbabwe</a>



## *Member States*

A series of missions in the poultry meat production sector, performed in 1999 and 2000, had shown some major shortcomings. No inspections in this area were carried out in 2001. Instead Member States were requested to inform the Commission Services on the implementation of action plans addressing deficiencies found in the 1999/2000 series of inspections in order to produce an updated general report, highlighting the major problems encountered and best practices.

## *Candidate Countries*

In the candidate countries visited, the poultry sector has a relatively small size. Findings on the spot were generally satisfactory.

## *Other third countries*

In the context of harmonisation of the Community import conditions for ratite meat, 4 inspections were completed to Southern African countries for which special conditions were adopted as regards Newcastle disease. In these missions, both animal health and public health aspects were assessed. Findings on the spot as well as competent authorities' responses to FVO recommendations were generally satisfactory.

In Peru, misinterpretation of Community legislation has lead to exports not being authorised.

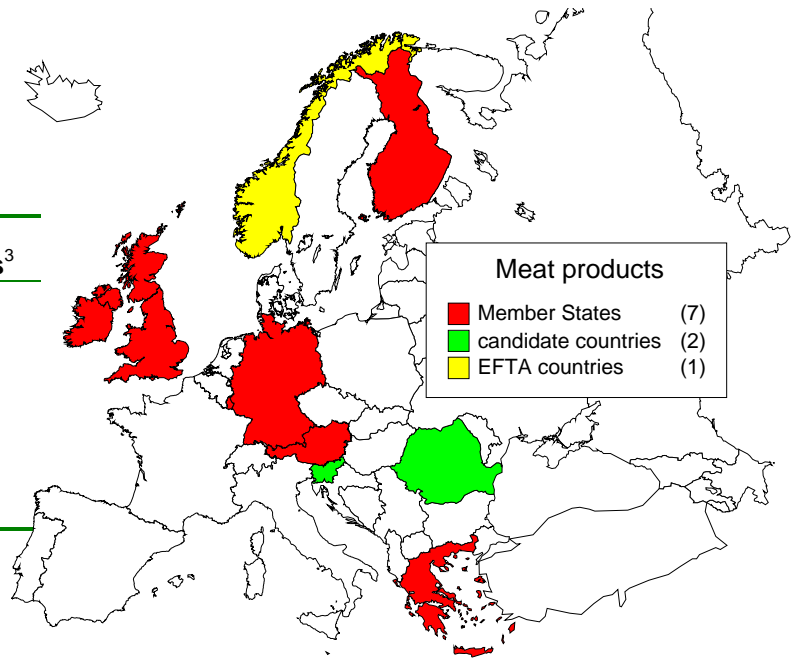
In Chile, poultry meat export certification has been suspended for major non-compliance with Community requirements.



## *Meat products*

Inspections carried out:

Member States	Candidate Countries	EFTA countries <sup>3</sup>
<a href="#">Austria</a>	<a href="#">Romania</a>	Norway
Finland	<a href="#">Slovenia</a>	
<a href="#">Germany</a>		
<a href="#">Greece</a>		
<a href="#">Ireland</a>		
<a href="#">Luxembourg</a>		
<a href="#">United Kingdom</a>		



### *Member States*

- An on-going series of missions was completed with visits to seven Member States.

Findings:

- Although controls in this sector were generally effective, attention was needed to "own check" and traceability programmes.

### *Candidate countries*

Evaluations of official controls over the production of meat products intended for export to the EU were undertaken in two candidate countries, with no major problems being identified.

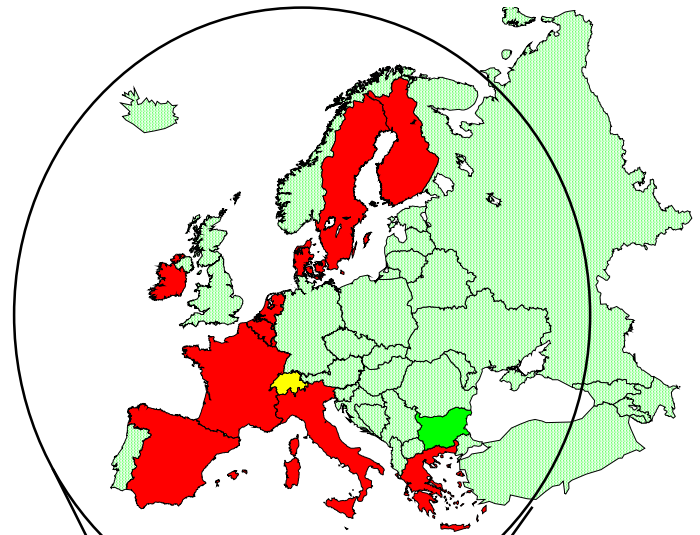
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<sup>3</sup> Joint inspection with EFTA Surveillance Authority.

## *Fish and live bivalve mollusc products*

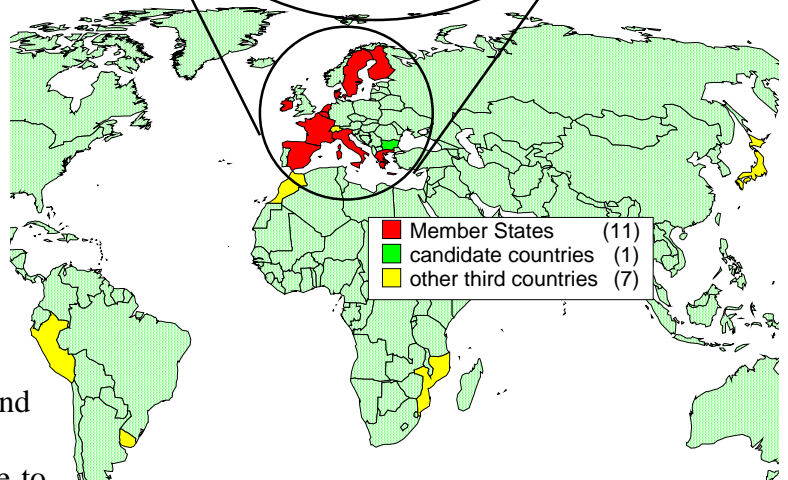
Inspections carried out:

Member States	Candidate Countries	Other third countries
<a href="#">Belgium</a>	<a href="#">Bulgaria</a>	<a href="#">Japan</a>
<a href="#">Denmark</a>		<a href="#">Morocco</a>
Finland		<a href="#">Mozambique</a>
France		<a href="#">Peru</a>
<a href="#">Greece</a>		<a href="#">Seychelles</a>
<a href="#">Ireland</a>		<a href="#">Switzerland</a>
Italy		<a href="#">Uruguay</a>
Luxembourg		
Netherlands		
<a href="#">Spain</a>		
Sweden		



### *Member States*

- Taking into consideration that these products represent a relatively high food safety risk and in order to get a comparative overview of the situation in Member States, a series of missions was started in 2001.



Findings for fishery products:

- insufficient number of qualified and trained staff,
- insufficient uniformity in controls due to lack of written procedures as well as training on these procedures,
- inadequate recording of inspection findings and of internal supervision,
- insufficient powers or insufficient use of the powers for enforcing the requirements,
- difficulties as regards official assessment/control of the HACCP based own-checks programmes.

Findings for live bivalve molluscs:

- classification of production areas was not adequately defined in some cases
- inappropriate design and sampling of the microbiological and phytoplankton monitoring programmes
- inappropriate control of [marine biotoxins](#) and incorrect biotoxin analysis methods

### *Candidate and other third countries*

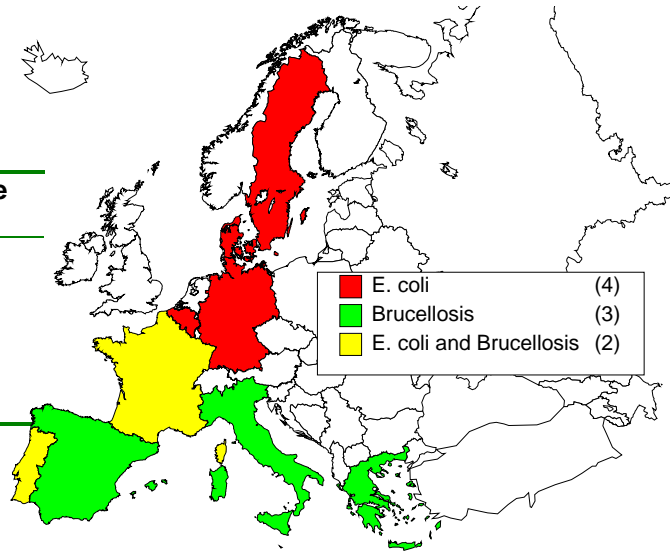
Missions to third countries showed situations varying from acceptable to worrying. In some developing countries, it appears difficult to achieve Community criteria for potable water in contact with food and for working according to good hygiene practices.

Countries where the situation was considered acceptable could, if certain written guarantees related to corrective actions and/or improvement were provided, be proposed to be added to the list of third countries for which export to the EU is authorised.

## Zoonoses

Inspections carried out:

<b>Verocytotoxigenic E coli</b>	<b>Ovine/caprine brucellosis</b>
Belgium	<a href="#">France</a>
Denmark	<a href="#">Greece</a>
France	<a href="#">Italy</a>
Germany	<a href="#">Portugal</a>
Portugal	<a href="#">Spain</a>
Sweden	



## Verocytotoxigenic E. coli

A series of inspections was undertaken in six Member States with a view to identifying best practices in controls over this pathogen. These inspections were undertaken in close co-operation with the national authorities, and allowed the production of an [overview report](#) that was placed on the Directorate General's website.

Findings:

The inspections found that the Member States were well aware of the risks posed to consumers, but noted wide differences in surveillance and control practices. Recommendations for future actions were made in the overview report.

## Ovine/caprine brucellosis

Inspections were performed in Member States where EU approved and funded eradication programmes were in place. This disease has particular significance for consumers, in that milk and milk products, unless properly treated, can pose a significant health risk. An overview report, summarising the main findings, and making recommendations for action, was prepared.

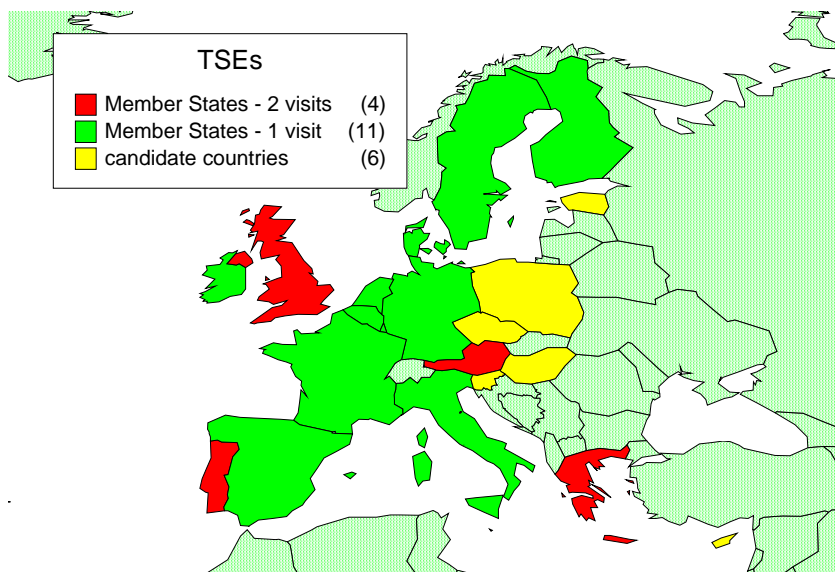
Findings:

In some instances, the need for greater attention to controls over milk production and processing was identified, and was followed up as a priority issue. A Task Force with the Member States to improve the planning and operation of eradication programmes was also established in 2001.

## *Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies ([TSE](#))*

Inspections carried out:

Member States	Candidate countries
<a href="#">Austria</a>	Cyprus
<a href="#">Belgium</a>	Czech Republic
<a href="#">Denmark</a>	Estonia
<a href="#">Finland</a>	Hungary
<a href="#">France</a>	Poland
<a href="#">Germany</a>	Slovenia
<a href="#">Greece</a>	
<a href="#">Ireland</a>	
<a href="#">Italy</a>	
<a href="#">Luxembourg</a>	
<a href="#">Netherlands</a>	
<a href="#">Portugal</a>	
<a href="#">Spain</a>	
<a href="#">Sweden</a>	
<a href="#">United Kingdom</a>	



### *Member States*

A series of inspections, started in December 2000, was completed in 2001 on the implementation of EU rules on passive epidemio-surveillance, TSE or BSE eradication plans, [SRM](#) (Specified Risk Material) removal and the feed ban. A series of inspections to evaluate implementation of new BSE rules on active surveillance, total feed ban and SRM was also begun. In addition, in Portugal a newly developed date based export scheme ([DBES](#)) required assessment.

### *Findings:*

Significant efforts and resources have been deployed to implement the new BSE control measures. The Member States have been able to implement most of the new requirements in practice within a relatively short time-period. Nonetheless, certain shortcomings were observed in relation to legal transposition, implementation (in particular inadequate operational instructions), and control measures (insufficient documentation of on-the-spot control activities and lack of implementation of second and third level controls).

In Portugal, it was concluded that additional detailed instructions concerning the control of the DBES scheme had to be put in place, in order to consider the system sufficiently reliable. An additional mission confirmed that sufficient measures had been put in place to improve reliability of the DBES.

### *Candidate countries*

A dedicated series of inspections was performed in candidate countries to evaluate measures in place for BSE.

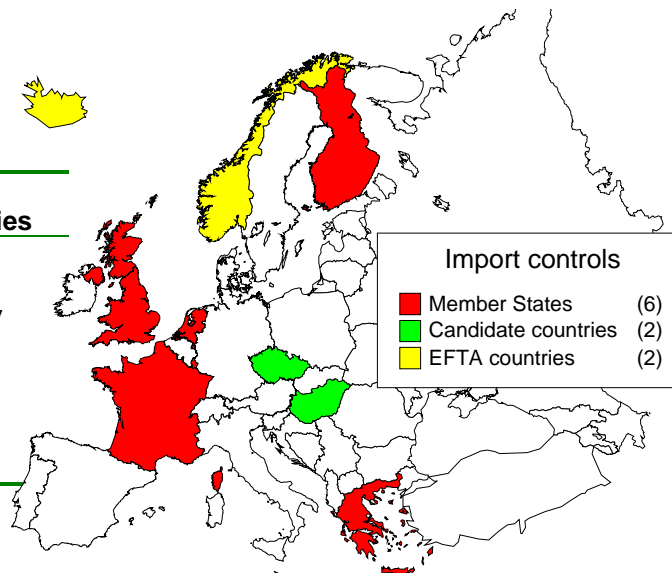
#### Findings:

The review of the control systems enabled the FVO to provide the competent authorities with an overview of deficiencies observed, with a view to initiating prompt corrective action before accession to the EU.

### *Import controls*

Inspections carried out:

Member States	Candidate Countries	EFTA countries
<a href="#">Finland</a>	Czech Republic	Iceland
<a href="#">France</a>	Hungary	Norway
<a href="#">Greece</a>		
<a href="#">Luxembourg</a>		
<a href="#">Netherlands</a>		
<a href="#">United Kingdom</a>		



### *Member States*

EU legislation requires the FVO to inspect all [border inspection posts](#) (BIP) on a regular basis, to visit all proposed new border inspection posts and those for which additions to the approval categories are requested.

31 agreed border inspection posts and 3 new facilities proposed for approval as a border inspection post were inspected. The inspections included an evaluation of the overall management of import controls by the competent authorities and the control procedures applied. At the level of the individual border inspection posts, facilities, equipment and working procedures were evaluated.

#### Findings:

The findings are summarised in the table below. For the purpose of this summary, the areas have been classified under twelve broad headings, and deficiencies are classified as major and minor non-compliances with EU requirements.

Technical areas	Number of Border Inspection Posts		
	Compliance	Non-compliance	
		Major	Minor
Veterinary organisation: number of staff	19	7	8
Veterinary organisation: training of staff	1	12	21
Facilities - products	0	29	4
Facilities – live animals	1	12	8
Equipment	3	17	13
Hygiene	0	32	1
Documentation	2	6	25
Registration	4	3	25
Identification/Selection	1	8	24
Procedures (notification, checks, decision)	0	18	14
Transit -warehouses	0	4	28
Inspection fees	5	12	17

#### *EFTA countries*

The FVO joins the [EFTA Surveillance Authority](#) inspections as an observer to ensure that the operation of import controls in the EU and EFTA are being conducted in a similar way. EFTA countries check consignments from third countries on behalf of the EU.

FVO inspectors accompanied the EFTA Surveillance Authority on inspections in Norway and Iceland where 5 new facilities were proposed for approval as border inspection posts.

#### *Candidate countries*

In 2001, a series of inspections was started in candidate countries to assess their preparedness in relation to the EU requirements on import controls. 4 border inspection posts in each inspected country were visited.

#### Findings:

The two missions in the candidate countries revealed that very considerable efforts are needed to ensure effective transposition and implementation of the *acquis communautaire* by accession.

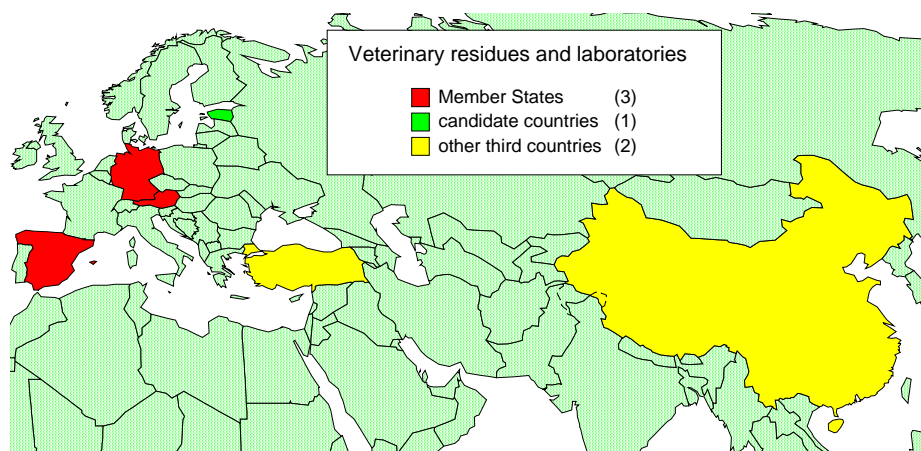
### *Other activities*

Inspectors were also heavily involved in Commission working groups on legislation on import controls and provided assistance in the evaluation of BIP construction plans of border inspection posts forwarded by Member States and candidate countries.

### *Veterinary residues and laboratories*

Inspections carried out:

Member States	Candidate Countries	Other third countries
<a href="#">Austria</a> <a href="#">Germany</a> <a href="#">Spain</a>	<a href="#">Estonia</a>	<a href="#">China</a> <a href="#">Turkey</a>



### *Member States*

There were inspections in Germany and Austria to follow-up the general review of Member States residue controls after the enforcement of Directive 96/23/EC.

There was also a visit to the Community Reference Laboratory for the monitoring of [marine biotoxins](#) in Spain

Findings:

- The inspection in Germany revealed that essential requirements of Council Directives 96/23/EC and 90/167/EEC and related legal provisions were not fulfilled, mainly due to serious omissions in legislation and procedures at federal level and implementation deficiencies at "Länder" level.
- In Austria, it was established that Austrian legislation failed to afford consumers effective protection against the illegal use of veterinary medicines in food-producing animals. Key Community requirements on residue testing, on the ban on the use of



certain substances, on the use of medicated feedingstuffs and veterinary medicines and on checks of movements of veterinary medicines had either only partly been transposed into national law or not at all.

- The [Community Reference Laboratory](#) (CRL) in Vigo (Spain) has done a great deal of work, both in terms of research and development of methods, and in introducing quality assurance. However, shortcomings were found in respect of their tasks as a CRL. In particular, the variations in method application across Member States and the rather low number of inter-comparison tests organised by the CRL were points of concern.

#### *Candidate countries*

The evaluation of the residue control system in Estonia revealed deficiencies in some areas. These deficiencies were considered to be particularly serious concerning the performance of laboratories. However, the competent authorities expressed a clear commitment to address all observed deficiencies.

#### *Other third countries*

In both Turkey and China, major deficiencies as regards the implemented residue control system and the control of the distribution of veterinary drugs were found.

The control system in place in Turkey could not provide sufficient guarantees that food commodities of animal origin exported to the EU do not contain residues of veterinary drugs or other harmful residues. Consequently, Turkey was removed from the list of countries eligible for import of poultry and milk/milk products into the EU.

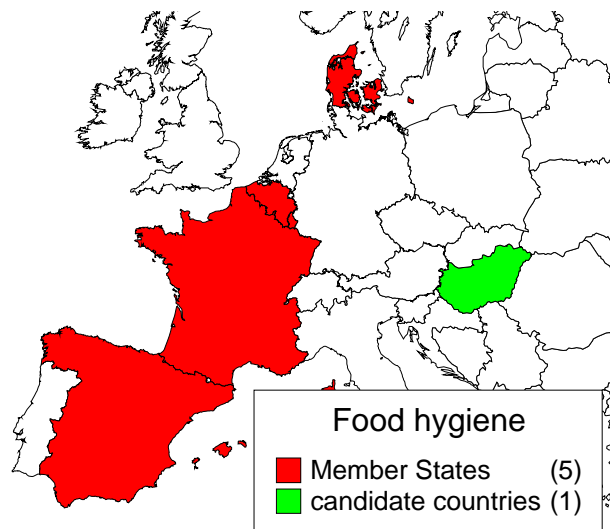
The inspection in China identified serious shortcomings in the regulation of veterinary medicines and the residue control system on live animals and animal products. Taken together with the numerous findings of *chloramphenicol* contaminated shrimps originating in China and arriving at the border inspection posts of the EU, the outcome of the inspection led the Commission to impose an import ban on Chinese food of animal origin.

## Food of plant origin

### *Food hygiene*

Inspections carried out:

Member States	Candidate Countries
Belgium Denmark <a href="#">France</a> <a href="#">Luxembourg</a> <a href="#">Spain</a>	Hungary



Five inspections took place as part of a series to Member States to evaluate the official foodstuffs control systems. Inspections focused on the application of [HACCP](#) in the retail sector. The first inspection to a candidate country on food hygiene took place in Hungary.

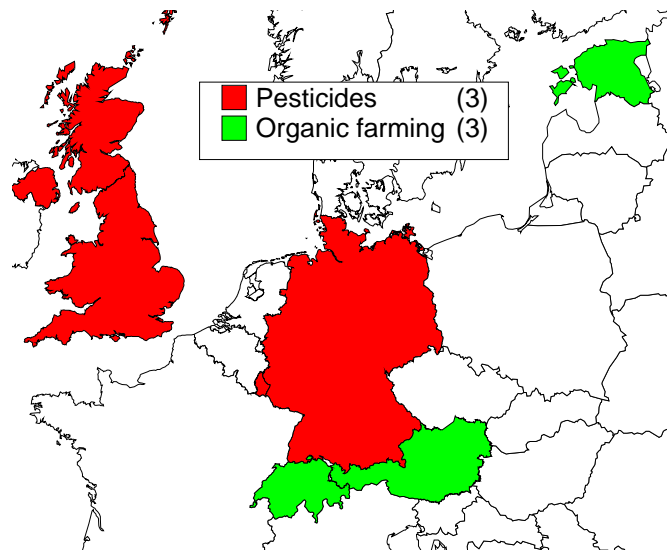
Findings:

- A variety of official control structures found, with some problems of communication from central to local services, and of under-resourcing.
- Application of self-regulation following the principles of HACCP was variable and generally poor.

### *Pesticides*

Inspections carried out:

Member States
<a href="#">Germany</a> <a href="#">Luxembourg</a> United Kingdom



The inspections focussed on the monitoring programmes of pesticide residues in foodstuffs of plant origin, including the control system on marketing and uses of plant protection products.

## Findings:

### Monitoring programmes

- The national and Community co-ordinated monitoring programmes were generally well implemented.
- Deficiencies were found with regard to the enforcement action taken and notification in the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed ([RASFF](#)) following breaches of [MRLs](#).
- As in previous years accreditation of residue laboratories was not achieved in all the countries visited and some shortcomings in the sampling procedure were noted.

### Marketing and uses of plant protection products

- Control systems implemented in the Member States varied greatly in scope and efficiency.
- Deficiencies were found mainly with regard to the scope of inspections on marketing and use and with regard to subsequent enforcement action taken.
- The timely and comprehensive reporting of inspection results to the Commission was found to be a problem in all the countries visited during 2001.

### Other activities

An overall report on the EU-wide pesticide residue monitoring exercise in plant products for the year 1999 was completed by the FVO in 2001.

## Contaminants

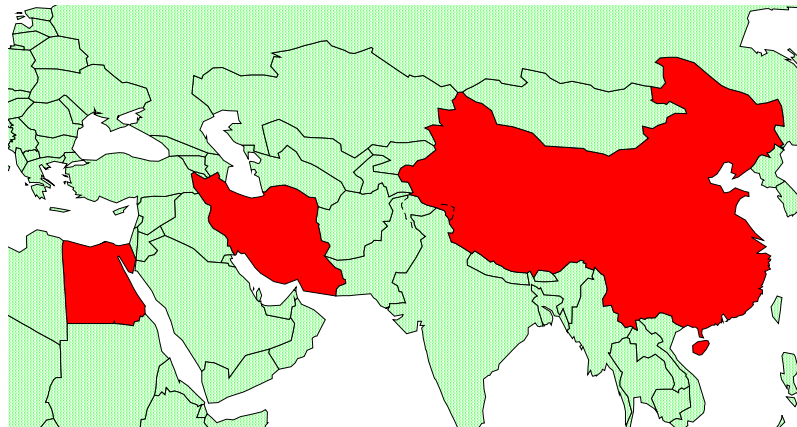
Inspections carried out:

### Third countries

[China](#)  
[Egypt](#)  
[Iran](#)

The continuing increase in problems with [aflatoxins](#) in nuts and dried fruits resulted in further inspections to producing third countries.

Inspections were carried out covering controls over peanuts from China and Egypt and pistachios from Iran. The inspection in China also covered controls on the contaminant [3-MCPD](#) in soy sauce, which was the first in a series of such inspections.



## Findings:

- Various problems were found in China that resulted in recommendations for a Commission Decision imposing specific controls over imports of Chinese peanuts.
- Both Egypt and Iran were a follow up to previous inspections. Some improvements were found in Iran, and significant improvements in Egypt.

### Food irradiation

Inspections carried out:

Candidate Countries	Other third countries
<a href="#">Hungary</a>	<a href="#">South Africa</a>

Article 9 of Council Directive 1999/2/EC concerning importation into the Community of food and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation, requires that third country food irradiation facilities be approved by the Community.

Following requests from South Africa and Hungary, two inspections were undertaken in 2001 to evaluate whether food irradiation facilities (three in South Africa, and one in Hungary) met the requirements of Directive 1999/2/EC.

Findings:

- The irradiation facilities evaluated in both South Africa and Hungary in general complied with the requirements of Council Directive 1999/2/EC.
- The facilities in South Africa were subject to regular inspections for radiological safety. However, there was inadequate official control in terms of monitoring for compliance with the conditions set out in the approvals granted by the South African Authorities and the requirements of Council Directive 1999/2/EC.

### Organic farming

Inspections carried out:

Member States	Candidate Countries	Other third countries
<a href="#">Austria</a>	<a href="#">Estonia</a>	<a href="#">Switzerland</a>

The inspections in Austria and Estonia were aimed at evaluating the organic inspection system and of the implementation of production rules in organic farming. In Switzerland, the purpose was to monitor equivalence regarding organic farming and organic inspection and certification.

Findings:

- Overall, the organic inspection systems evaluated in 2001 operated reasonably well.
- In Austria and Switzerland (which is recognised by the EU as equivalent for organic production and certification) accredited private inspection bodies were in charge of organic inspection. While the basic structure of the inspection system was adequate, government supervision of the control activities by the inspection bodies was rather superficial.

- Estonia was in the process of setting up a government inspection system. The inspection of organic plant production was well developed. The inspection of organic animal production had started in 2001, and the inspection of processors and retailers was being prepared.

#### *Other activities*

##### Supervision of the Food Quality Pilot Programme.

This programme is aimed at assessing the overall quality of a number of food products from organic and conventional farming in nine Member States. An inspection was carried out to supervise the contractors. Some of the interim reports were approved and feedback given on the first final reports.

#### *Genetically modified organisms*

Inspections carried out:

Member States
<a href="#">France</a>
<a href="#">Germany</a>

There were two inspections to evaluate official controls regarding the European labelling requirement of GMO-derived foodstuffs.

#### Findings:

- Both Member States visited have started to organise controls and have regulated the use of "GMO free" claims.

#### Germany

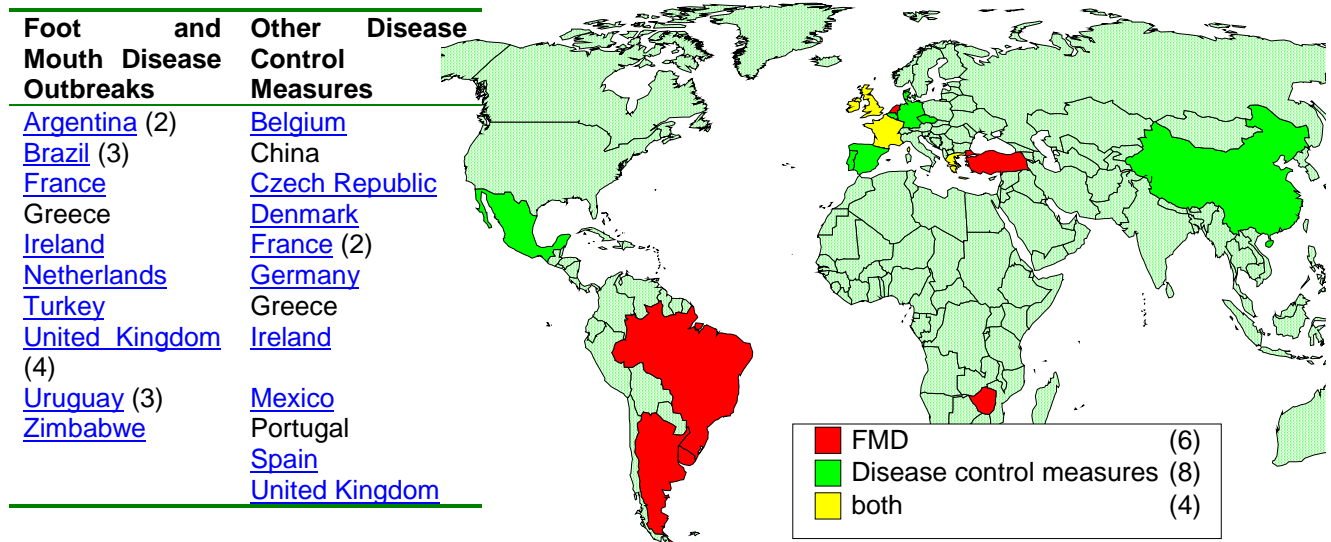
- Controls mainly focus on final products.
- Official laboratories have high analytical capabilities.
- Shortcomings were found regarding enforcement action.

#### France

- Controls were well organised and oriented towards raw materials and traceability.
- Shortcomings were found regarding controls of imported products and sample analyses.

# ANIMAL HEALTH

Inspections carried out:



## Foot and mouth disease ([FMD](#))

The outbreaks of this disease in four Member States, as well as in South America and southern Africa, required a considerable effort from the FVO. Eight inspections to Member States (including four to the UK) and ten inspections to third countries were completed.

### *Member States*

In the United Kingdom, the scale and rapidity of spread of the epidemic posed particular problems. The FVO's missions identified a number of areas for improvement, especially in the early phase of the epidemic. In particular, the initial delay in identifying the first outbreak, and the high number of sheep movements around that time allowed the disease to spread widely before it was detected. This was exacerbated by insufficient controls over livestock dealers and markets prior to the detection of the first outbreak and the inability to trace sheep movements (exacerbated by the lack of proper identification). The scale of the epidemic caused considerable problems in the implementation of the necessary control and eradication efforts, since the resources required could not immediately be mobilised. The response of the UK authorities to the FVO's missions was generally positive, and deficiencies identified in earlier missions were seen to have received proper attention during subsequent missions.

In the other Member States, the heightened disease awareness following the initial cases in the UK allowed the official services and the farming and food industries to respond rapidly when outbreaks occurred. As a result they succeeded in controlling and

eradicating the disease before it could spread too widely. Only in the Netherlands was it considered necessary to make use of vaccination as part of the eradication effort. The ease with which the disease spread to other Member States underlined the animal health risks associated with extensive animal movements, and the importance of proper movement controls and animal identification to ensure that outbreaks could be rapidly mastered and traced.

The FVO contributed to the seminar called by the Belgian Presidency in December 2001 to review the lessons to be learnt from the epidemic.

#### *Third countries*

A series of FMD outbreaks in South America, coupled with concerns over the effectiveness of official controls, required repeated missions to Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay. In light of these missions, which identified serious problems in animal identification and movement controls, the provision of health certification and in animal health controls over meat production, the Commission took emergency measures to block imports of fresh meat and other risk products from these countries for periods during 2001. Only where satisfactory assurances were received from the official services, and confirmed by the FVO during follow-up missions, were these measures lifted.

### **Disease control measures**

#### *Waste food controls*

As part of its follow-up to the FMD outbreaks in the EU, inspections to five Member States (Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, United Kingdom) to review controls over the handling of waste food and its feeding to livestock were performed. In most cases, national bans had already been introduced, although evidence was found that raised questions as to the effectiveness of farm-level controls prior to these bans. Concerns were expressed about certain aspects of the controls in place over the disposal of waste from international means of transport, where further checks were needed in some Member States. An overview report, summarising the main findings and making recommendations for action, was prepared.

#### *Contingency plans (foot and mouth disease, classical swine fever)*

The series of inspections to all Member States, which started in 1999, continued, but was severely hampered by the FMD outbreaks in the EU. As a result, only two inspections (France, Spain) were completed. The findings of this series to date have indicated that, whilst Member States are aware of the importance of effective plans, there is a general need for greater attention to the preparation and training of all those involved in responding to disease outbreaks. Furthermore, contingency plans are not designed to cope with outbreaks on the scale of those seen in respect of FMD in the United Kingdom.

### *Other disease issues*

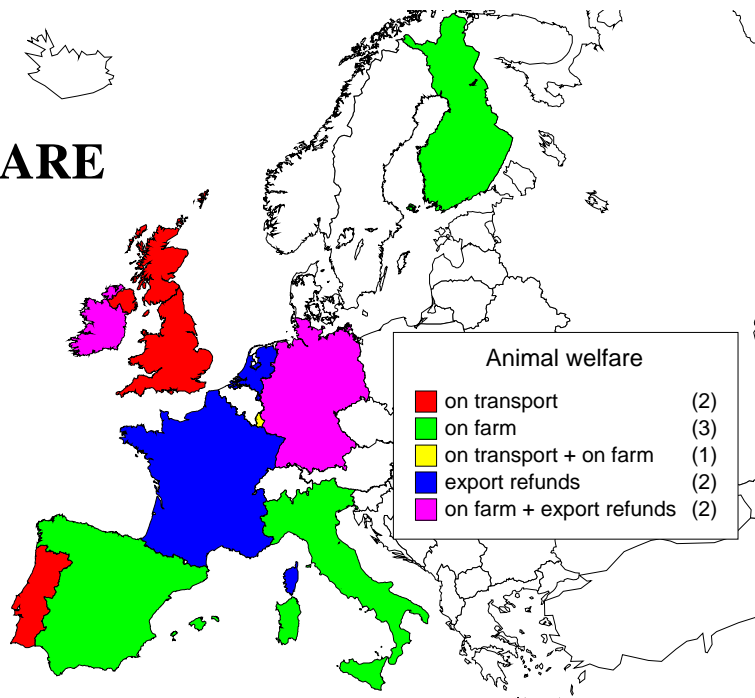
- Two inspections (Belgium, France) were undertaken to review the operation of disease surveillance programmes under Article 14, Council Directive 64/432/EEC which, if satisfactory, allow derogations from certain controls over animal movements between Member States. The outstanding actions required to bring these to an acceptable standard were communicated to the national authorities, and improvements are in hand.
- One inspection (Spain) was undertaken to evaluate the controls in place following outbreaks of Classical Swine Fever. Shortcomings were noted in respect of the epidemiological investigations into the origin and spread of the disease, checks on holdings within infected areas and the operation of laboratories, although the response on infected premises had been rapid and effective
- Inspections were undertaken in Portugal and Greece to accompany inspection teams from the US Department of Agriculture who were examining the animal health status of the Member States concerned.
- The FVO accompanied an inspection by the EU-FMD Commission to Turkey to review the operation of the FMD vaccination programme.
- An inspection to China on animal health conditions for poultry meat export demonstrated that a lot of efforts had been made to improve the official services' knowledge of the poultry flock health situation regarding Avian Influenza, nevertheless some improvements are still needed in particular regarding relevant low pathogen virus strains.



# ANIMAL WELFARE

Inspections carried out:

Member States
<a href="#">Finland</a>
France
Germany (2)
<a href="#">Ireland</a> (2)
<a href="#">Italy</a>
<a href="#">Luxembourg</a>
Netherlands
<a href="#">Portugal</a>
Spain
<a href="#">United Kingdom</a>



Priorities concerned the EU rules in relation to animal welfare on-farm (pigs, calves and laying hens), and during transport (including staging points). The latter also included verification of welfare conditions of animals at markets and in slaughterhouses. Welfare requirements in relation to slaughter of animals are also covered during inspections dealing with public health.

Eight inspections to check animal welfare controls in the Member States were carried out in 2001. These included five inspections solely regarding checks on farms, two on transport and one integrated inspection covering both on-farm and transport controls.

In addition, inspections in four Member States were carried out in collaboration with the Directorate General for Agriculture to audit the systems for export refunds concerning live bovine animals (Regulation EC No 615/98).

## Findings:

Concerning legislation on the transport of animals, the FVO found a varied level of enforcement in the Member States visited. While the inspection in the UK revealed some examples of best practice in implementing checks of animal welfare during transport, Portugal showed little real improvement in the operation of controls.

The series of inspections undertaken with the Directorate General for Agriculture revealed that, although the main four exporting Member States (Germany, France, Ireland and the Netherlands) had taken measures, these were not in all cases fully respecting the Regulation's provisions.

Regarding animal welfare on-farm, there was again a variation in the level of control.

- The legislation had not been completely transposed in Spain.
- In Germany, a decision of the Supreme Court annulled the federal legislation regarding the welfare of laying hens. This decision also had implications for legislation on the welfare of other types of animals.

### *Other activities*

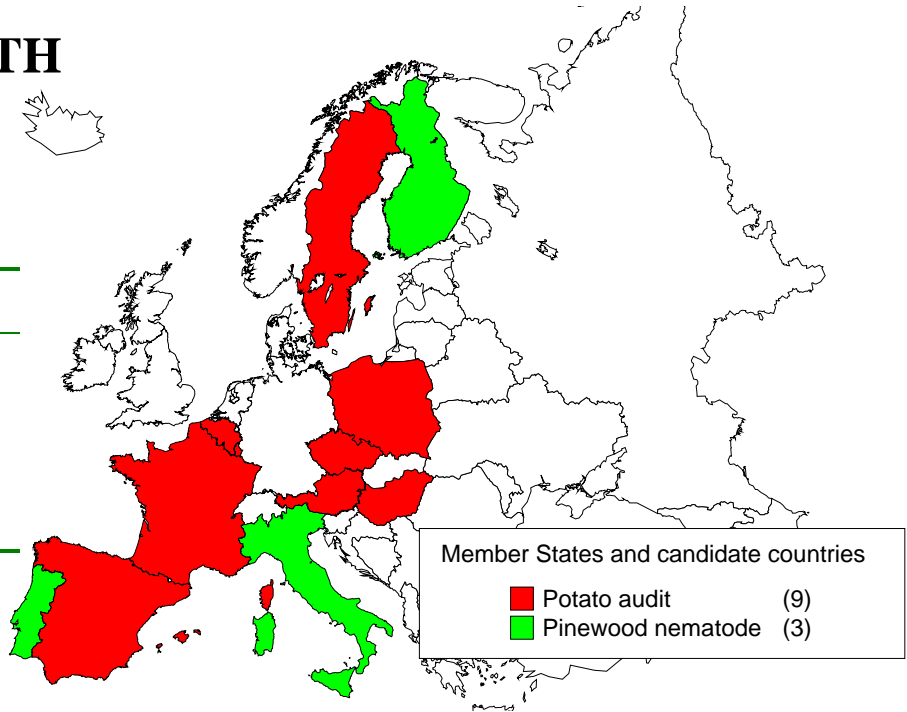
One [general report](#) and one interim report were presented to the Standing Veterinary Committee, comprising the main findings and conclusions concerning animal welfare at staging points, and on-farm, respectively. A full general report on the series of missions concerning on-farm welfare will be produced in 2002.

# PLANT HEALTH

## *Potato audits*

Inspections carried out:

Member States	Candidate Countries
<a href="#">Austria</a>	<a href="#">Czech Republic</a>
<a href="#">Belgium</a>	<a href="#">Hungary</a>
France	Poland
<a href="#">Luxembourg</a>	
<a href="#">Spain</a>	
<a href="#">Sweden</a>	



## *Member States*

The series of potato audits to Member States, begun at the end of 1999, was continued in 2001 with six Member States inspected. This series focuses on the implementation of a range of EU legislation on [harmful organisms](#) in the potato sector.

## *Findings:*

The Member States inspected in 2001 differed substantially with regard to, for example, the farming structure, the organisation of the plant health services, the economic importance of potatoes and the distribution of potato pests and diseases. Thus, their interpretation and implementation of the relevant EU legislation varies. A number of non-compliances were encountered and recommendations made for rectification.

## *Candidate countries*

Outbreaks of brown rot in Hungary and applications from the Czech Republic and Poland for equivalence status with regards to ring rot control gave occasion to carry out potato audits in these countries.

## *Findings:*

Potato quarantine controls in the Czech Republic and Poland - both countries where potato ring rot occurs - were not yet equivalent to EU standards. The same situation was found in Hungary. However, the country's status as free from ring rot was confirmed. All three inspections provided input to the accession preparation.

## Pinewood nematode

Inspections carried out:

Member States	Third countries
<a href="#">Finland</a>	<a href="#">China</a>
<a href="#">Italy</a>	
<a href="#">Portugal</a>	

Three inspections were carried out in Member States to verify the implementation of Commission Decision 2001/218/EC, which prescribes eradication measures (in Portugal) and survey activities (in other Member States) for the pinewood nematode. Non-compliances were noted in Portugal and Italy and corrections recommended.

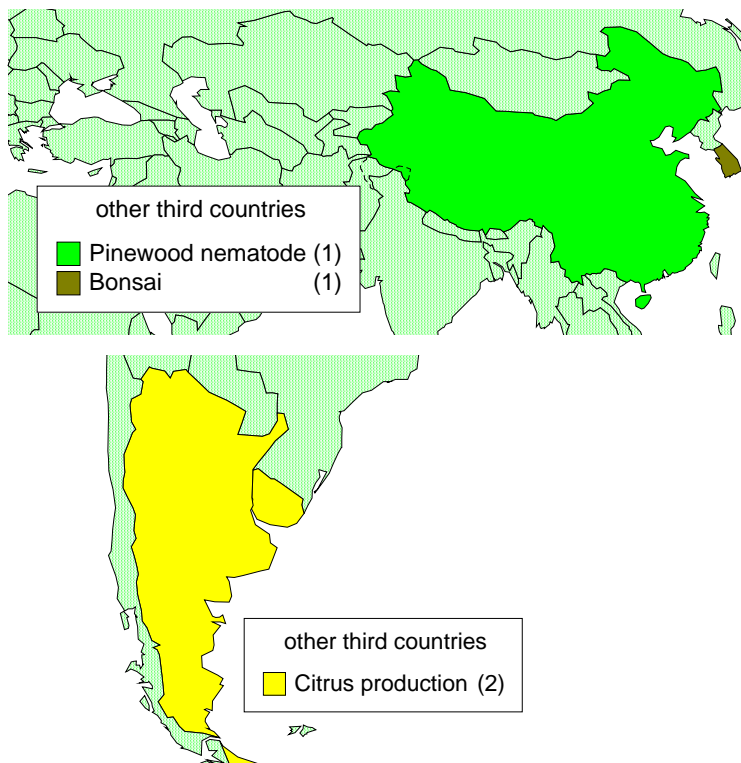
An inspection was carried out in China to examine the possible regionalisation of China with regard to the presence of pinewood nematode. It provided the baseline data for accepting untreated coniferous wood packing imports from parts of China as foreseen under Commission Decision 2001/219/EC.

### Other inspections

In Italy, the eradication programme put in place for *Diabrotica virgifera* (western corn rootworm) was monitored. It appeared that this nematode is now spread in 3 regions and eradication is no longer a realistic option.

The series of inspections to major citrus exporting countries was continued. The purpose was to verify the compliance with EU requirements on pre-export control and to appraise the general phytosanitary status of citrus production with inspections in Argentina and Uruguay. Shortcomings were noted and recommendations made accordingly.

In response to a derogation request for import to the EU of coniferous bonsai, a mission was carried out to the Republic of Korea. Based on the information provided by the mission, a Commission Decision granting such derogation and giving certain conditions is in preparation.



### *Other activities*

The development of EUROPHYT (European Network of Plant Health Information) continued. Austria and Ireland now use the system for giving notification of import interceptions, while a number of other Member States use it for consultation of such information.

From the obligatory annual surveys for potato ring rot, potato brown rot and pine wood nematode, data were requested from Member States, processed and presented at the Standing Committee for Plant Health.

Interceptions of Egyptian potato exports were monitored and evaluated. Dossiers for recognising pest free areas in Egypt for the current potato export season were compiled and presented in a working group of the Standing Committee for Plant Health.

## LIST OF FVO INSPECTIONS 2001

COUNTRY	MEMBER STATES SUBJECT
Austria	BSE
Austria	BSE
Austria	Milk/ milk products
Austria	Organic farming
Austria	Pig meat
Austria	Potatoes
Austria	Residues (veterinary)
Belgium	BSE
Belgium	Disease surveillance network (E.coli)
Belgium	Fish / Bivalve Molluscs
Belgium	Food hygiene (HACCP)
Belgium	Milk/ milk products
Belgium	Potatoes
Belgium	Zoonoses
Denmark	BSE
Denmark	Eggs/egg products
Denmark	Fishery products and bivalve molluscs
Denmark	Food hygiene (HACCP)
Denmark	Meat/meat products
Denmark	Waste food controls
Denmark	Zoonoses
Finland	Animal welfare (on-farm)
Finland	BSE
Finland	Fishery products and bivalve molluscs
Finland	Import controls (BIPs)
Finland	Meat/meat products
Finland	Pinewood nematode
France	Animal health (FMD)
France	Animal health (surveillance)
France	Animal welfare (transport)
France	Br. melitensis
France	BSE
France	Disease contingency plans
France	Eggs/egg products
France	Fishery products and bivalve molluscs
France	Food hygiene (HACCP)
France	GMOs
France	Import controls (BIPs)
France	Meat/meat products
France	Potatoes
France	Waste food controls

COUNTRY	SUBJECT
France	Zoonoses
Germany	Animal welfare (on-farm)
Germany	Animal welfare (transport)
Germany	BSE
Germany	Eggs/egg products
Germany	GMOs
Germany	Meat/meat products
Germany	Residues (pesticides)
Germany	Residues (veterinary)
Germany	Waste food controls
Germany	Zoonoses
Greece	Animal health (FMD)
Greece	Br. melitensis
Greece	BSE
Greece	BSE
Greece	Fishery products and bivalve molluscs
Greece	Import controls (BIPs)
Greece	Meat/meat products
Greece	Milk/ milk products
Ireland	Animal health (FMD)
Ireland	Animal welfare (on-farm)
Ireland	Animal welfare (transport)
Ireland	BSE
Ireland	Fishery products and bivalve molluscs
Ireland	Meat/meat products
Ireland	Meat/meat products
Ireland	Meat/meat products
Ireland	Meat/meat products
Ireland	Waste food controls
Italy	Animal welfare (on-farm)
Italy	Br. melitensis
Italy	BSE
Italy	Eggs/egg products
Italy	Fishery products and bivalve molluscs
Italy	Pinewood nematode
Italy	Plant pest outbreak (arable crops)
Luxembourg	Animal welfare
Luxembourg	BSE
Luxembourg	Fishery products and bivalve molluscs
Luxembourg	Food hygiene (HACCP)
Luxembourg	Import controls (BIPs)
Luxembourg	Meat/meat products
Luxembourg	Meat/meat products
Luxembourg	Milk/ milk products
Luxembourg	Potatoes
Luxembourg	Residues (pesticides)

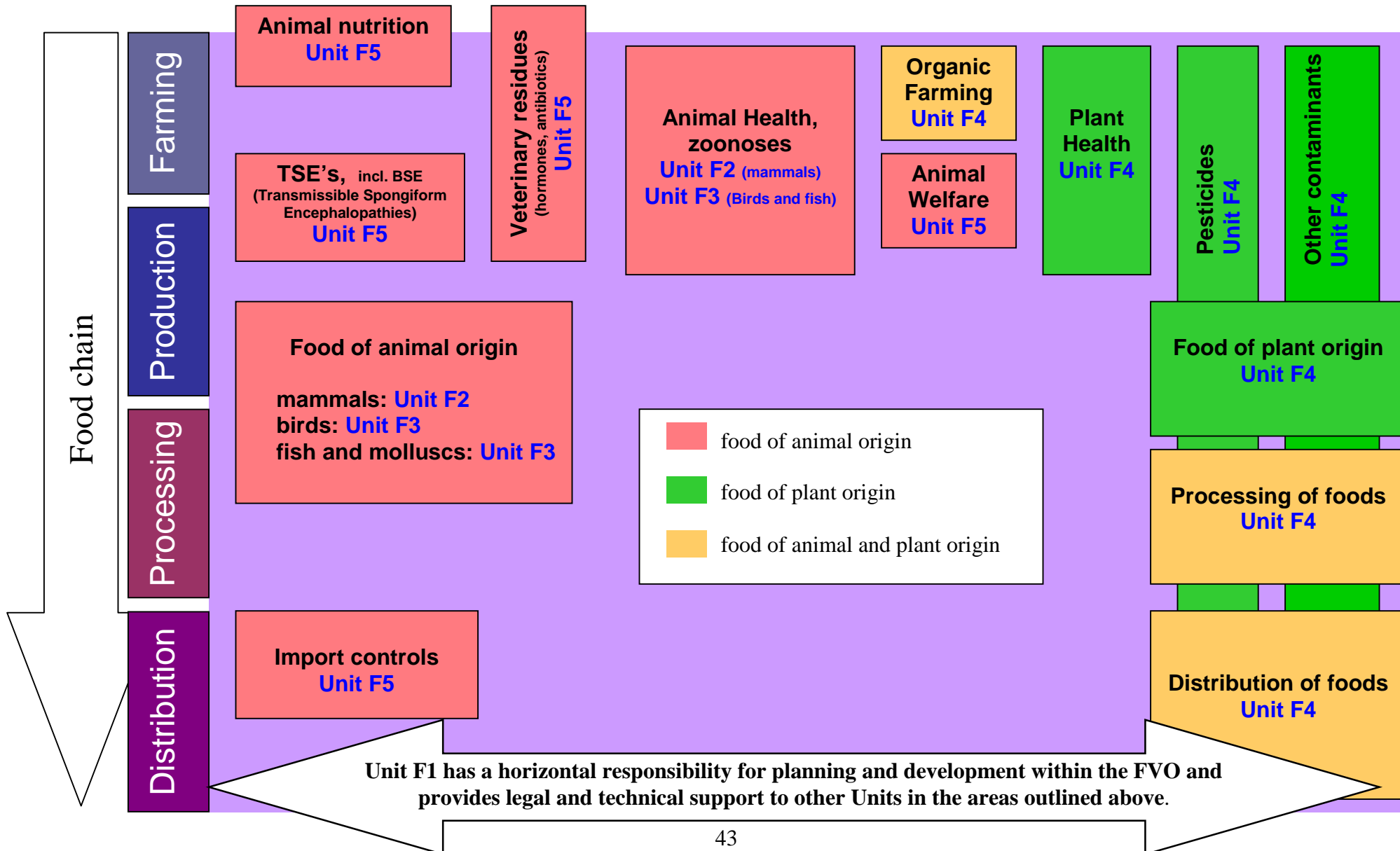
COUNTRY	SUBJECT
Portugal	Animal welfare (transport)
Portugal	ASF
Portugal	Br. melitensis
Portugal	BSE
Portugal	BSE
Portugal	Meat/meat products
Portugal	Milk/ milk products
Portugal	Pinewood nematode
Portugal	Zoonoses
Spain	Animal welfare (on-farm)
Spain	Br. melitensis
Spain	BSE
Spain	Community Reference Laboratory on Marine Biotoxins
Spain	CSF
Spain	Disease contingency plans
Spain	Fishery products and bivalve molluscs
Spain	FMD / ASF
Spain	Food hygiene (HACCP)
Spain	Milk/ milk products
Spain	Potatoes
Sweden	BSE
Sweden	Fishery products and bivalve molluscs
Sweden	Meat/meat products
Sweden	Potatoes
Sweden	Zoonoses (E.coli)
The Netherlands	Animal health (FMD)
The Netherlands	Animal welfare (transport)
The Netherlands	BSE
The Netherlands	Fishery products and bivalve molluscs
The Netherlands	Import controls (BIPs)
United Kingdom	Animal health (FMD)
United Kingdom	Animal health (FMD)
United Kingdom	Animal health (FMD)
United Kingdom	Animal health (FMD)
United Kingdom	Animal welfare (transport)
United Kingdom	BSE
United Kingdom	BSE
United Kingdom	Import controls (BIPs)
United Kingdom	Meat/meat products
United Kingdom	Residues (pesticides)
United Kingdom	Waste food controls



COUNTRY	CANDIDATE COUNTRIES SUBJECT
Bulgaria	Fishery products
Bulgaria	Meat/meat products
Cyprus	BSE
Cyprus	Enlargement - general assessment inspection
Czech Republic	BSE
Czech Republic	CSF
Czech Republic	Enlargement - general assessment inspection
Czech Republic	Import controls (BIPs)
Czech Republic	Potatoes
Czech Republic	Poultry meat
Estonia	BSE
Estonia	Enlargement - general assessment inspection
Estonia	Milk/ milk products
Estonia	Organic farming
Estonia	Residues (veterinary)
Hungary	BSE
Hungary	Enlargement - general assessment inspection
Hungary	Food hygiene (HACCP)
Hungary	Import controls (BIPs)
Hungary	Irradiation
Hungary	Milk/ milk products
Hungary	Potatoes
Latvia	Enlargement - general assessment inspection
Latvia	Meat/meat products
Latvia	Poultry meat
Poland	Animal health (CSF)
Poland	BSE
Poland	Eggs/egg products
Poland	Enlargement - general assessment inspection
Poland	Potatoes
Romania	Meat/meat products
Romania	Poultry meat
Slovak Republic	Enlargement - general assessment inspection
Slovak Republic	Milk/meat
Slovak Republic	Poultry meat/products
Slovenia	BSE
Slovenia	Enlargement - general assessment inspection
Slovenia	Meat/meat products
Turkey	FMD
Turkey	Residues (veterinary)

COUNTRY	OTHER THIRD COUNTRIES SUBJECT
Argentina	Animal health (FMD)
Argentina	Animal health (FMD)
Argentina	Import controls (plants/plant products)
Botswana	Export approval (ratite meat)
Brazil	Animal health (FMD)
Brazil	Animal health (FMD)
Brazil	Import controls (animals/animal products)
Chile	Poultry meat
China	Aflatoxins in peanuts; Contaminants (3-MCPD)
China	Avian influenza
China	Pinewood nematode
China	Residues (veterinary)
Egypt	Aflatoxins in peanuts
Iceland	Import controls (BIPs)
Iceland/Norway	Import controls (BIPs)
Iran	Contaminants
Japan	Bivalve molluscs
Korea, rep	Plant pest situation (bonsais)
Mexico	Identification/certification (live animals/animal products)
Mexico	Meat/meat products
Morocco	Fishery products and bivalve molluscs
Mozambique	Fishery products
Namibia	Export approval (ratite meat)
Norway	Meat/meat products
Norway	Milk/ milk products
Peru	Fishery products and bivalve molluscs
Peru	Poultry meat
Philippines	Fishery products and bivalve molluscs
Russian Federation	Wild game
Seychelles	Fishery products
South Africa	Export approval (ratite meat)
South Africa	Irradiation
Switzerland	Equivalency in organic farming
Switzerland	Fishery products
Thailand	Poultry meat
Uruguay	Animal health (FMD)
Uruguay	Animal health (FMD)
Uruguay	Fishery products and bivalve molluscs
Uruguay	Import controls (animals/animal products)
Uruguay	Import controls (plants/plant products)
Zimbabwe	Export approval (ratite meat)
Zimbabwe	Import controls (animals/animal products)

# FVO INSPECTIONS: COVERING THE FOOD CHAIN



# GLOSSARY

<b>3-MCPD</b>	3-MCPD (3-monochloropropane-1,2-diol) is the most common of a group of chemical contaminants known as chloropropanols. It occurs at low levels in many foods and food ingredients as a result of processing. It is often found at high levels in soy sauces and the savoury food ingredient acid-hydrolysed vegetable protein (acid-HVP).
<b>Aflatoxin</b>	Aflatoxin is the name for a group of toxins (poisonous chemical compounds) that are produced by two fungi called <i>Aspergillus flavus</i> and <i>Aspergillus parasiticus</i> . These toxins occur naturally and have been found in a wide range of commodities used for animal and human consumption. Depending on the levels, the toxins can severely affect the liver and they are a known human carcinogen (i.e. causes cancer).
<b>APHIS</b>	<a href="#">Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service</a> , which is part of <a href="#">United States Department of Agriculture</a> .
<b>Border inspection post (BIP)</b>	Any inspection post, designated and approved for the carrying out of veterinary checks on products arriving from third countries at the EU border
<b>brucellosis</b>	Zoonotic disease commonly transmitted through abrasions of the skin from handling infected mammals or by ingesting contaminated milk and dairy products. Symptoms are non-specific and "flu-like".
<b>candidate countries</b>	In March 1998 the EU formally launched the process that will make enlargement possible. It embraces the following thirteen applicant countries: Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Turkey.
<b>competent authority</b>	The competent authority is a domestic government body made responsible under that country's national law for the control or regulation of a particular area of legislation.
<b>CRL (Community Reference Laboratory)</b>	The CRL is responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• information and guidance on relevant analytical methods</li> <li>• working with National Reference Laboratories on the application of methods (by comparative testing in particular)</li> <li>• co-ordinating research into new methods</li> <li>• organising training courses and workshops</li> <li>• collaborating with third country laboratories</li> <li>• providing scientific and technical assistance to the European Commission</li> <li>• helping reference laboratories implement quality assurance systems (such as accreditation)</li> </ul>
<b>DBES</b>	The legal basis for the Date Based Export Scheme is Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97 establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals.
<b>EUROPHYT</b>	EUROPHYT is an electronic rapid alert system between the Member States and the Commission (Health and Consumer Protection DG) <sup>4</sup> . It aims at transmitting information concerning plant quarantine (notifications of interceptions of plants, plant health legislation, documents of the Standing Committee on Plant Health).

<sup>4</sup> Council Directive 2000/29/EC lays down in Article 21(6) first indent that « the Commission shall establish a network for the notification of new occurrences of harmful organisms ».

<b>FMD</b>	Foot and Mouth Disease is a disease characterised by blister-like lesions of the mouth (inner tissue of mouth and lips, snout, and tongue) and feet (especially around the coronary band). The blisters rupture and leave an ulcerated depressed area that is susceptible to bacterial infection. Cloven hoofed animals (cattle, sheep, swine, goats, and wild ruminants) are susceptible to the disease.
<b>food irradiation</b>	is a controlled intervention process, exposing food to ionizing energy that destroys food borne pathogens
<b>genetically modified organisms (GMO)</b>	Genetic modification is the technique of changing the genetic make-up of an individual organism by inserting, removing or altering individual genes to achieve a desired result. Currently, only food ingredients from varieties of genetically modified soya, maize and oilseed rape have been approved for food use in Europe.
<b>HACCP</b>	HACCP stands for Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Points. It is a system for monitoring food processes to reduce the risk of food contamination. HACCP focuses on how food flows through the food processes – be it food production, distribution or retail – and identifies potential hazards at each step. By identifying "critical control points" (CCPs) where bacteria may grow or food may be contaminated, HACCP provides a framework for implementing control procedures for each hazard.
<b>Harmful organisms</b>	Harmful organisms are pests, including insects, mites, nematodes, bacteria, fungi, viruses, phytoplasmas and parasitic plants, harmful to plants or plant products, and which are not present or have a limited distribution in the EU.
<b>infringement proceedings</b>	Treaty infringement proceedings are a procedure for establishing whether a Member State has failed to fulfil an obligation imposed on it by Community law. It is conducted exclusively before the European Court of Justice. Given the seriousness of the accusation, the referral of the Court of Justice must be preceded by a preliminary procedure in which the Member State is given the opportunity to submit its observations. If the dispute is not settled at that stage, either the Commission or another Member State may institute an action in the Court. In practice the initiative is usually taken by the Commission.
<b>marine biotoxins</b>	Marine biotoxins and harmful algae represent a significant and expanding threat to human health and fisheries resources, causing human intoxications or even death from contaminated shellfish or fish.
<b>MRL</b>	Maximum Residue Level: fixed residue level that may not legally be exceeded.
<b>Organic Farming</b>	Farming methods which use only organic fertilizers and avoid use of inorganic agricultural chemicals and herbicides
<b>RASFF</b>	The Rapid Alert System for Food informs the competent authorities in the Member States of the presence of a serious risk to the health of the consumer presented by a food product.
<b>red meat</b>	Meat derived from such animals as bovines, pigs, horses, sheep and goats (mammals).

**SRM**

The following tissues are designated as specified risk material in connection with BSE:

- the skull including the brain and eyes, the tonsils, spinal cord and vertebral column including dorsal root ganglia of bovine animals aged over 12 month,
- the intestines from the duodenum to the rectum of bovine animals of all ages,
- the skull including the brain and eyes, the tonsils and the spinal cord of ovine and caprine animals aged over 12 month or which have a permanent incisor through the gum,
- the spleen of ovine and caprine animals of all ages,
- bovine animals aged over 30 months and which have not been tested for BSE,
- fallen stock of bovine, ovine and caprine animals of all ages including their embryos

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**TSE**

Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies, of which Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) is one. BSE is a transmissible, neuro-degenerative, fatal brain disease of cattle.

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**Verocytotoxigenic  
E. coli**

Verotoxin (VT) producing *Escherichia coli* (VTEC), and particularly strains of serotype O157:H7, have emerged as food poisoning pathogens which can cause a severe and potentially fatal illness. It is a major cause of gastroenteritis that may be complicated by hemorrhagic colitis or cause acute renal failure in children

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**zoonoses**

Zoonoses are infectious animal diseases which usually affect other animals, but which can also afflict humans. They can be carried over through food (food borne zoonoses) or through direct contact with animals.